

Massachusetts Early Childhood Linkage Initiative: Taking CAPTA Pilot to Scale

Early Childhood Partners, 1/19/07

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*Based on presentation by John A. Lippitt,
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From Policy to Implementation

- **MECLI piloted referrals from child welfare (CW) to Part C Early Intervention (EI)**
- **3 Pilot sites in MA, Nov. 2002 – Dec. 2004**
- **Both CW and EI were supportive**
- **Robust EI system able to handle referrals**

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MECLI Findings: Referrals

- **540 children offered referral to EI**
- **18% of parents refused the referral**
- **19% of families referred did not engage with EI**
- **40% of children were assessed**



MECLI Findings: Eligibility

- **74% of children assessed were eligible under MA broad eligibility criteria_(161/218)**
- **49% had an eligible delay**
- **17% eligible due to 4 of 20 risk factors**
- **1% eligible by established condition or judgment**
- **6% eligibility criterion unknown**

MECLI Findings: Delays

- **40% language delay**
(84/211)
- **24% adaptive / self-help delay**
- **23% gross motor delay**
- **21% fine motor delay**
- **20% cognitive delay**
- **15% social-emotional delay**

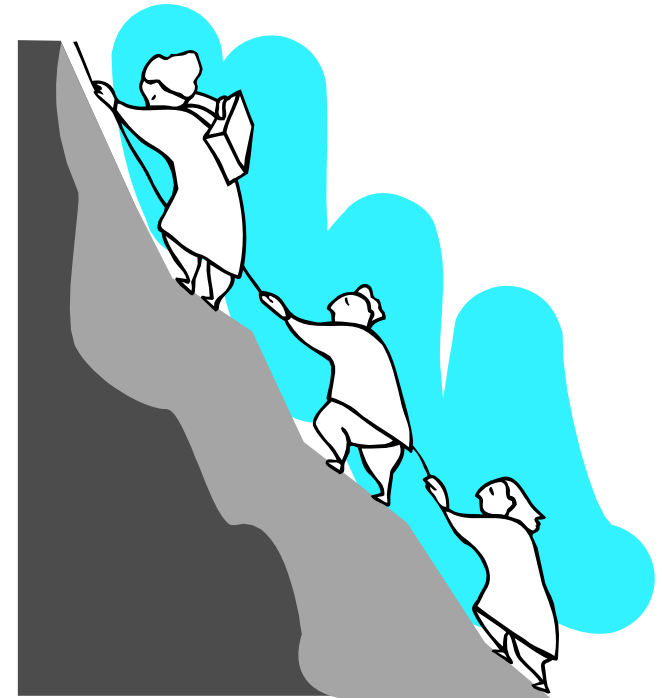


MECLI Findings: Risk Factors

- **CW involvement 69% (145/211)**
 - **Parental chronic illness or disability 35%**
 - **Domestic violence 25%**
 - **Substance abuse 25%**
 - **Multiple traumas or losses 17%**
 - **Inadequate food, shelter, or clothing 14%**
 - **Family lacking social supports 13%**
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Challenges

- **Establishing new policy**
- **Resources: time, money, expertise**
- **Collaboration**
- **Increased referrals**
- **Who to refer**
- **Screening vs. assessment**



Challenges (cont'd)

- **Appropriate assessment and services**
- **Engagement of referred families**
- **Working with families facing multiple challenges**
- **Rate of eligibility**
- **Confidentiality and information sharing**
- **Local variation**

Success Factors & Strategies

- **Clear policies and procedures**
 - **Clear roles and responsibilities**
 - **Obtain buy-in & develop shared vision**
 - **Referral coordinators and collaboration facilitator**
 - **Attainable goals and objectives**
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Success Factors & Strategies (cont'd)

- **Funding for service delivery**
 - **Training**
 - **Time for collaboration & case management**
 - **Expertise on social-emotional development & ECMH**
 - **Diversity & cultural competence**
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Conclusions

- **CW to Part C EI referrals will identify eligible kids**
 - **Multiple implications for Part C EI systems**
 - **Build collaboration among CW, Part C EI, and the courts**
 - **Work with biological and foster families**
 - **Hard work but can be done and can improve outcomes for children and families**
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Taking it to Scale: Current Status

- **Policy guidance drafted fall 2005**
 - **Work with unions:**
 - **Social Worker: approved**
 - **NAGE: in progress**
 - **Training plan drafted for 29 area offices, include EI staff and EI parents as presenters**
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Substance Exposed Newborns Pilot: “A Helping Hand: Mother to Mother”

- Director: John Lippitt, former MECLI Director
 - Integrates the delivery of substance use, child welfare, child development, mental health, health, and other social services
 - Family Support Specialist, trained mom in recovery: mentor, advocate, support
 - One pilot community; additional two next FY
 - Barry Lester keynote at kickoff: Jan. 18th
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